

The Point

Fitchburg State College's student newspaper



FSC file photo

Students are all smiles at Rock the Block, an annual Welcome Week event that shines the spotlight on Fitchburg State College's clubs and organizations.

What's new on campus? A lot!

Renovations greet returning students

By Tim McCarthy

Fitchburg State College has always been "a real gem in the city of Fitchburg," according to President Robert Antonucci. And if the setting seems even better this fall, it's the result of an \$8 million expansion project that took place this summer and will continue into the future.

With funding from sources including student fees and state allowances, tangible improvements have been made across the campus. These include expansion of the Ross Street parking lot, physical restorations both within and outside of the Hammond Campus Center, and additional student housing added via the purchase of 185 North St.

These alterations to the campus, spearheaded by the Strategic Planning Initiative, are merely the beginning.

"This is the largest volume of construction going on in the recent history of the college," said Jay Bry, assistant vice president for administration at FSC. "Our goal is to keep that pace up for several years, with an emphasis on the academic environment and the student environment."

As of now, such improvements related to student life include a complete overhaul of Hammond's Underground Pub, extensive landscaping, and the hiring of several new faculty members for the fall semester.

Also underway, according to Bry: dozens of other projects including classroom upgrades, construction of a new IT Center, renovation of Miller Oval, security improvements, and exterior lighting upgrades.

In addition, according to Bry, several North Street properties now owned by the college will be demolished to allow for additional green

Smile: It's Welcome Week

Comedians head the entertainment lineup

By Megan Benevides

If you want to laugh, Fitchburg's got it covered with a Welcome Week performance by comedian Buzz Sutherland – that is, if he can find the FSC campus.

"When I am in Fitchburg I have to leave my hotel at 4 p.m. to make a show at 8," he said in a recent telephone interview. "I don't know how anyone can find their way on those streets. If Anne Frank hid in my hotel room, she'd never be found."

Sutherland's Sept. 4 show is just one of many activities and events planned to launch the start of the fall semester. Also slated to perform are poet/actress Bridget Gray on Sept. 3, and comedians Kristen Keys and Jen Kober on Sept. 6. In addition, the "Take It or Leave It!" game show is set for Sept. 3, and an '80s dance party with cover band Orange Crush is scheduled for Sept. 5.

A campus favorite, Sutherland has won fans at FSC with his "Forrest Gump" and "King of the Hill" impressions. He said he's always looking for fresh new jokes to add, and he may have found a few during his previous



Comedian Buzz Sutherland is making his way to Fitchburg State College, where he's slated to perform Sept. 4 from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Hammond Campus Center Main Lounge.

visits to campus.

"I love the Hammond building - there's always so much going on in that room," he said. "It's me and a Velcro wall, or me and kids in Sox hats dipping their hands in wax. I never have a problem staying late afterward to enjoy the many activities the school plans. Fitchburg State is truly one of my favorite schools."

For his part, Sutherland has become a favorite of college students at FSC

and throughout the country. He has been named comedian of the year more than a dozen times by America's Colleges and Universities, and he was nominated for 2006 Comedy Show of the Year by American Entertainment Magazine.

Welcome Week 2007 is all about making new friends and reconnecting with old ones, and Buzz Sutherland said he's excited to be a part of the experience. "Even though I am an old guy in the business, my job never

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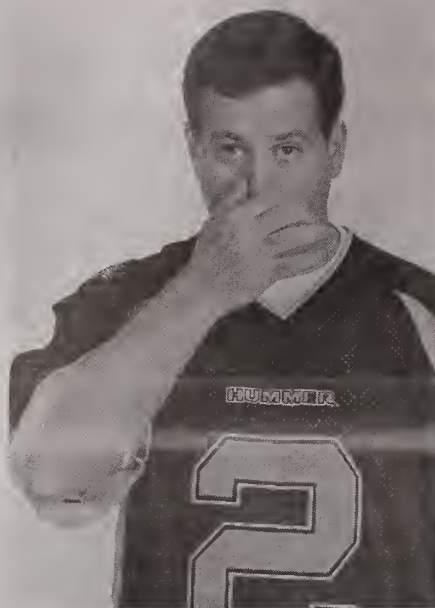
Welcome Week puts comedy on campus

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gets old," Sutherland said. "There are always freshmen and new faculty to meet, and old ones to welcome you back. I feel there's no better way to do it than to share a good laugh and fun times!"

For FSC students, the good times can actually start on Sept. 2 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the Great Move-In, when student helpers greet freshmen and help them get settled in the residence halls. FSC President Robert V. Antonucci and other campus administrators will address the students at 1 p.m. at Weston Auditorium. Later in the evening, students can dine and dance during First Night from 8 p.m. to midnight in the Quad.

On Sept. 3, students can head to Coolidge Park and the Civic Center for a community cleanup project from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m. The project will include painting the hockey rinks, weeding, and picking



Buzz Sutherland

up litter.

Later on Sept. 3, Bridget Gray comes to campus for a 2 p.m. performance at Weston Auditorium. Gray became a published poet

while still a teen-ager, studied theater and dance at Northern Illinois University, and then moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career as an actress and writer. Her film and TV credits include a cameo in "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me," and guest starring roles on CBS' "The District," UPN's "The Hughleys," Disney's "The Magic Jersey."

Finally on Sept. 3, the game show "Take It or Leave It" – similar to "Deal or No Deal" – is planned from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Hammond Campus Center Main Lounge. In this game, students will have the chance to win cash prizes ranging from a penny to \$500.

After the first day of classes on Sept. 5, students will be able to celebrate with a 9 p.m. dance party featuring '80s cover band Orange Crush and DJ Scotty P, in the Hammond Campus Center Main Lounge.

On Sept. 6, the 10th annual Rock the Block will be held from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on Highland Avenue. The block party is set to feature activities, giveaways, and the chance to speak to representatives from 75 clubs and offices. Later, at 9 p.m., the Underground Pub will have its grand reopening with shows by comedians Kristen Keys and Jen Kober, who appeared on NBC's "Last Comic Standing." Students need their campus One Card ID for entry to this event.

Welcome Week will come to a close Sept. 7 with a showing of the movie "Spider-Man 3" on a giant screen on the Quad at 8 p.m. After the film, the Hammond Campus Center is slated to turn into Club Hammond with dance parties, food novelties, more movies, an open Game Room.

For more information on campus events, contact the Office of Student Development at (978) 665-3163.

With renovations, FSC builds on success

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space and parking. The new retaining wall in front of Russell Towers has been completed, while across the street retaining walls are being replaced to accommodate the new vehicle pull-off sections that will be part of next year's Phase III North Street Project.

For returning students, the addition of 50 parking spaces to the Ross Street lot will certainly make life easier this fall. The new spaces, built on land purchased by the school for this purpose, have made it possible to change the configuration of lots used for commuter students, resident students, staff and faculty.

"Finding the balance between faculty, staff, commuter student parking, and residential parking depended upon which lots expanded with the new growth," Bry explained. "We needed to reallocate those spaces around in order to keep the ration in the correct order."

The lot shifts won't affect freshmen who live on campus, however – all residential freshmen students are now required to park in the Wallace Civic Center parking lot.

Once students have dismounted from their steel chariots after the journey to FSC, many will make their new home in Aubuchon Hall, Russell Towers, and Herlihy Hall. Others will opt for the suite-style living of Mara Village, the Townhouses, and the Cedar Street House.

A select few, however, will make

themselves at home in the college's new North Street Apartments, which were purchased by FSC and extensively renovated before being converted into apartment-style student housing for the 2007-2008 school year. These apartments allow students to experience off-campus-style living without giving up the benefits and protections of student housing.

Students seem to agree that it's a good concept. "I think a lot of students are going to like those apartments," said Carl Osborne, a senior at FSC. "It's like you're living in an apartment but you're still associated and affiliated with the school."

While the North Street Apartments help satisfy FSC's current housing needs, Bry said their use may be temporary. "We don't know if that property will stay housing, long-term," Bry said. "It's to take some of the pressure off the resident halls until we complete the new construction in Mara Village. We're working with the building authority right now to finalize plans to add somewhere in the neighborhood of about 125 more beds within one or two additional buildings to the Mara Village complex."

Construction of the new Mara Village buildings won't begin until sometime during the spring of 2008, Bry said. "Much of the heavy construction will take place during the summer," he added. "It's scheduled to open by the fall of 2009."

Although it's still in the initial phases of development, students have had positive reactions to the Mara plan. "I think it's good," said senior Marissa

Torres. "I lived in Mara Village for three years. I liked that it was kind of away from campus; it gave you a little more privacy and you could also get away from the more hectic and bigger halls like Russell and Aubuchon."

Virtually all the buildings on campus will be undergoing some form of change under the shadow of all the construction. As of now, the Hammond Campus Center, which houses the library, Commuter Café, Student Government Association offices, and – to a certain extent – the beating heart of the school itself, has seen some of the most dramatic improvements. For starters, the brick facade on the outside of the building has been replaced; this massive project was undertaken not only to improve the aesthetics, but to also remedy several potential safety hazards. Additionally, new windows have been added to the third floor.

Inside Hammond, several projects to enhance student life at FSC have come to fruition. The Hammond Lounge has been expanded with new carpeting and furniture to create a living-room atmosphere conducive to conversation among students, faculty and staff.

The Underground, the student-run pub located on a basement floor in Hammond, has practically been given a second life. Improvements include a raised ceiling, new sprinkler system, new lighting system, updated sound system, and even a TV that drops from the ceiling. "The Underground will become the primary entertainment venue for student events," Bry said.

Even more important to student life, however, is the quality of academic programs at FSC. To this end, 14 new faculty members have been hired across the departments. Notable faculty increases have occurred within the Education major, with a whopping four new members.

The Communications Media major will also benefit this fall with hiring of two new female faculty members. This is significant, according to Shirley Wagner, associate vice president of Academic Affairs, because it can "make a big difference in attracting women to the major."

Wagner explained, "Communications Media is one of those majors that, throughout the country, is predominantly male dominated. So it's important that you have female faculty to attract more female students to the major."

Besides new faculty to greet, students can also look forward to the construction of new science buildings that will not replace Condike, but instead expand into a whole new structure. "At this point," Bry said, "the study has come out that it is to be a renovation of the existing science building, but adding about 75,000 square feet."

This past summer season has certainly been one of positive change throughout FSC. As Bry said, "Knock on wood, everything has been on track and continues to be on track. We've had no major delays or surprises this year."

Calendar of events

Sept. 2

Orientation 2007: The Great Move-In – 7 a.m.-1 p.m.; Wallace Civic Center; sponsored by FSC Orientation Committee.

Residence Halls Open for New Students – 1-3 p.m.; for more information, call 978-665-3177.

First Night – 8 p.m.-midnight; Quadrangle; free; Welcome Week event featuring popcorn, sno-cones, cotton candy, caricatures, airbrush pillowcases, and a dance party; sponsored by Orientation 2007.

Sept. 3

Spoken Word of Bridget Gray – 2 p.m.; Weston Auditorium; performance by the poet and actress; sponsored by Programs Committee and SGA.

“Take It or Leave It” Game Show – 8-10 p.m.; Hammond Campus Center Main Lounge; free; contestants can win from 1 cent to \$500 in a game based on “Deal or No Deal”; sponsored by Orientation 2007.

Sept. 4

Comedian Buzz Sutherland – 8-10 p.m.; Hammond Campus Center Main Lounge; sponsored by Programs Committee and SGA.

Sept. 5

First Day of Classes – 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Dance Party – 9 p.m.-midnight; Hammond Campus Center Main Lounge; free; featuring ‘80s cover band Orange Crush and DJ Scotty P; sponsored by Orientation 2007.

Sept. 6

Rock the Block - 3:30- 6 p.m.; Highland Avenue; block party with food, activities, and representatives from 75 campus clubs and organizations; sponsored by Student Activities Office and Programs Committee.



Friends of all stripes get together for Rock the Block and other Welcome Week activities at FSC.

File photo

Underground Pub Grand Opening – 9 p.m.-midnight; Hammond Building; featuring comedians Kristen Keys and Jen Kober; free; 18+ with FSC OneCard required for entry; sponsored by Orientation 2007.

Sept. 7

Drive-In Movie – 8-10 p.m.; Quadrangle; (rain site: Hammond Main Lounge); screening of “Spiderman 3”; free and open to the public; sponsored by Office of Campus Living and Programs Committee.

Club Hammond – 10 p.m.-2 a.m.; Hammond Building; featuring dance parties, food, novelties, movies; free; sponsored by Orientation 2007.

Sept. 9

Movie – 7-9 p.m.; Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building; “Spiderman 3”; free; sponsored by Office of Campus Living.

Sept. 11

Student Government Club Training - 3:30-6 p.m.; Hammond Building, Alumni Rooms, G-Level; attendance required for all clubs, funded and non-funded; sponsored by Student Government Association.

Sex Rules With Maria Falzone – 8-11 p.m.; Main Lounge, Hammond Building; “funny and frank” discussion about sex; free and open to the public; sponsored by: Programs Committee.

Sept. 12

Casino Night – 9 p.m.-midnight; Hammond Campus Center Main Lounge; free; place bets, collect chips, win tickets for prizes; sponsored by: Programs Committee.

Taste of Fitchburg - 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Main Lounge, Hammond Building; free; specialties from a

variety of local restaurants; sponsored by Student Activities Office.

Sept. 13

Luau Dance Party – 9 p.m.-midnight; Underground Pub, Hammond Building; free; 18+ Fitchburg State OneCard required for entry; sponsored by Office of Student Development.

Sept. 18

“Celestial Nights: Visions of an Ancient Land” - 6:30 p.m., artist introduction to Neil Folberg’s work by Communications Media Professor Peter Laytin; 7-9 p.m., opening reception; Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building; free; exhibit continues through Nov. 15.

Sept. 19

Hypnotist Tom DeLuca – 8-10 p.m.; Percival Hall; free; sponsored by Programs Committee.

Marketing students get real-world experience

When North Middlesex Regional High School needed to create a marketing plan this spring, the school’s leaders turned to Fitchburg State College’s communications media department, which has helped such clients as Lockheed Martin and the Human Capital Education Corp.

During the spring 2007 semester, 22 students, advised by Associate Professor Rob Carr, tackled the North

Middlesex project, working with Principal Richard Manley, students, staff and parents.

The Fitchburg State group was recruited to create a promotional campaign about the benefits of attending North Middlesex, which has lost some students to the Massachusetts school choice plan in recent years.

“We wanted them to tell our story to the public,” Manley said.

Carr and his students conducted interviews, shot photography and took hours of video. They created a redesign of school logos, brochures and newsletters. They wrote feature stories for submission to local newspapers. The team also produced a video that showcases North Middlesex and its students.

“They had a working theme for their production: The Everyday Extraordinary. The students came in and saw the small things that gave students the extraordinary learning experience,” Manley said. The team presented the video and print pieces to the School Improvement Council, which includes employees, parents, community members. The council recommended that the video be used to promote the high school.

Sports teams coming on strong

By Mike Prescott

"This program is going nowhere but up!"

Fitchburg State College men's soccer coach Steve NaboiCHECK has a bright outlook for the future of his team, and he points to the roster to explain his optimism.

"The team has a strong group of returning players, including [captains] and Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference All Stars Jude Connelly and Dave Tyler," NaboiCHECK notes. Connelly was also named the FSC male rookie athlete of the year in 2006. Upperclassmen Dana Kelly and Marco Ferrara are also carrying the team on to a new season.

In addition to its existing strengths, the team will also be welcoming eight

Returning soccer players, new football coach raise hopes for season

freshmen and three transfer students this semester. "The team is looking to achieve some very good results based upon our returning players and the incoming recruiting class," NaboiCHECK says.

This fall, the Fitchburg State College sports programs flare up once again, with the men's and women's soccer, field hockey, and football teams taking to the fields. Each team looks toward a bright future with returning and incoming players.

In addition to new students, the football team will also be welcoming a new head coach, Paul McGonagle.

"He brings to the position exactly the combination of leadership, knowledge, and enthusiasm we look for in a coach," says FSC President Robert V. Antonucci. "His character and work ethic are immediately evident, as is his extensive understanding of the game."

McGonagle spent the last two seasons as an offensive coordinator at Bentley College in Waltham, helping the

Hawks to their first-ever Northeast 10 Conference Championship, landing a spot in the NCAA Division II playoffs.

"He brings an extensive football resume to Fitchburg State that will be an invaluable asset to our college," says Athletic Director Sue Lauder.

McGonagle says he is excited to be joining the FSC community, and wants to make an impact on the students. "Coaching football has always been my passion, and I feel privileged that I have been given the change to make an impact on the lives of the student athletes," he says. "My wife and I are excited about becoming a part of the FSC community, and I am looking forward to what lies ahead for the football program."

The FSC football season starts with a home game against Curry College on Sept. 8 at 1:30 p.m., followed by another home game against UMass-Dartmouth on Sept. 15.

The men's soccer team starts with a home game as well, at 1 p.m. on Sept. 1 against Western Connecticut State University.

For more information on all FSC sports teams, including complete schedules, venues, scores, and recruitment, visit the college Web site.

Free helmets to promote bicycle safety

A state program promoting the use of bicycle helmets has awarded equipment to Fitchburg State College that will be distributed among students.

The college is receiving 50 bike helmets as part of the Statewide Helmet Distribution Program, an initiative of the Executive Office of Public Safety.

The program is providing 14,000 helmets to 253 communities and organizations throughout Massachusetts.

Fitchburg State police officers will be handing out the helmets to the first 50 students who request them at the college's annual Rock the Block celebration on Sept. 6 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on Highland Avenue.

"Our focus was on the number of students Rollerblading and skateboarding on campus," said Chief James Hamel.

"We've had accidents with serious injuries in the past, and wanted to make helmets available."

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Your Dorm Checklist

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- ___ Sheet sets. Twin or Twin XL (2)
- ___ Comforter or quilt (1)
- ___ Down comforter (1)
- ___ Duvet cover (1)
- ___ Blanket (1)
- ___ Bed pillows (2)
- ___ Pillow protectors (2)
- ___ Mattress pad (1)
- ___ Fiberbed/featherbed (1)
- ___ Inflatable Aerobed (1)
- ___ Window/door panels
- ___ Area rug (1)
- ___ Decorative pillows
- ___ Floor cushions
- ___ Throw (1)

Pull an All Nighter

- ___ Desk lamp (1)
- ___ Floor lamp (1)
- ___ Bed rest (1)
- ___ Lap desk (1)

Munchie Makers

- ___ Bowls, plates, mugs (4)
- ___ Forks, knives, spoons (4)
- ___ Glassware set (1)

Cookware set (1)

- ___ Set kitchen utensils (1)
- ___ Bottle/can opener (1)
- ___ Water filtration pitcher (1)
- ___ Replacement filters
- ___ Chip clips/magnetic clips (5)
- ___ Dorm-size microwave (1)
- ___ Dorm-size refrigerator (1)
- ___ Blender (1)
- ___ Toaster oven (1)
- ___ Coffeemaker (1)
- ___ George Foreman grill (1)
- ___ Snack table (1)
- ___ Dish rack
- ___ Travel mugs

Neat n Tidy

- ___ Hand or stick vacuum (1)
- ___ Dish cloths & towels (6)
- ___ Cylinder hamper (1)
- ___ Compact iron (1)
- ___ Drying rack (1)
- ___ Laundry bags (2)
- ___ Lint roller

Dorm Pre-Req's

- ___ Clock radio (1)
- ___ Night light
- ___ Fan (1)
- ___ Storage boxes (2)
- ___ Extension cords (2)
- ___ Squid multi outlets (2)
- ___ Surge protector
- ___ Batteries
- ___ Door mirror (1)
- ___ Wall hooks
- ___ Frames
- ___ Storage ottoman
- ___ Trash can

Chaos Control

- ___ Storage trunk or tote (1)
- ___ Under the bed containers (3)
- ___ CD or DVD storage (1)
- ___ Set of 4 bed risers (1)
- ___ Over the door storage (1)
- ___ Shoe rack (1)
- ___ 24 hangers (1 Pkg.)
- ___ Mesh cubes
- ___ Bubble crates
- ___ Modular storage shelves
- ___ Drawer organizers (4)
- ___ Storage set (1)
- ___ Duffel bag (1)
- ___ Space bags

Student Body Needs

- ___ Towel sets (6)
- ___ Towel bar (1)
- ___ bath towel tower (1)
- ___ Tub mat (1)
- ___ Bath rug (1)
- ___ Shower curtain (1)
- ___ Shower liner (1)
- ___ Shower ring set (1)
- ___ Shower caddy (1)
- ___ Soap holder (1)
- ___ Bath brush and pouf
- ___ Electric toothbrush (1)
- ___ Replacement heads
- ___ Over the door hook (1)
- ___ Magnifying mirror (1)
- ___ Blow dryer (1)
- ___ Body wash & lotion
- ___ Cosmetic organizer (1)
- ___ Tweezers
- ___ Curling iron (1)
- ___ Hair straightener (1)
- ___ Electric razor (1)
- ___ Robe & slippers (1)
- ___ Hair towel & shower wrap
- ___ Shower radio (1)
- ___ Scale
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